

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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R 201235Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8299

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MAIDUGURI BOTTLENECK AND CAMEROONIAN ROUTE

REFS: (A) DAKAR 4011; (B) NIAMEY 2403; (C) DAKAR 3965;
(D) NDJAMENA 1931

1. THINGS SEEM TO BE BREAKING A BIT IN CHAD. PRESIDENT
TOMBALBAYE'S CABLE TO CILSS DAKAR REFLECTS APPARENT DETER-
MINATION TO GO TO WORK ON MAIDUGURI PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE IT
IS DIRECT RESULT USG DECISION TO CUT OFF FURTHER SHIPMENTS TO
MAIDUGURI FOR CHAD UNTIL GOC ACTIVELY HELPS FIND SOLUTION.

2. DESPITE RAINS, TONNAGES EVACUATED FROM MAIDUGURI ARE
IMPROVING AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. TOTAL IN N'DJAMENA AT
COB JULY 18 WAS 5647 TONS WITH 4719 UNDER COVER AT MAIDUGURI.
SOCOPAO STATISTICS POINT TO SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH LAGOS AND
NIAMEY MIGHT HELP SOLVE: JULY 15 TOTAL 289 TONS (OF WHICH 7
SORGHUM), JULY 16 432 (1.5 SORGHUM), JULY 17 560 TONS
(179.5 SORGHUM), JULY 18 162 TONS (93.4 SORGHUM). ALTHOUGH
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GROSS TONNAGES LOOK GOOD, AVERAGE SORGHUM THESE FOUR DAYS WAS

70 TONS, RATE ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY. REPEATED AND LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH SOCOPAO AS TO HOW TO GET HIGHER MAIDUGURI LOADING PRIORITY FOR SORGHUM HAVE ALWAYS YIELDED SOCOPAO AGREEMENT THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT PROBLEM BUT HAVE PRODUCED NO SUGGESTIONS ON SOLUTION. ACTION REQUESTED BELOW.

3. SOMEWHAT IMPROVED PERFORMANCE BY GOC IS TRACEABLE TO USG CUTOFF AND DIVERSION GRAIN BUT ALSO TO REQUEST AADO AND I MADE TO DJONOUA TO EXPLAIN IN WRITING WHY GOC COULD NOT PUT 15 NEW 25-TON FIATS INTO SERVICE ON GRAIN RELIEF RUN AND WHY IT HAD NOT ACCEPTED FRENCH OFFER 12 MANNED TRUCKS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO KANEM. DJONOUA HAD FORMALLY STATED THAT "FOR POLITICAL REASONS" FIATS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. SAID LICENSING, REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE NOT COMPLETED AND IMPLIED THAT PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE HAD OTHER PLANS FOR THEM. (FYI, WE KNEW THAT INTENTION HAD BEEN TO PROCEED WITH DISTRIBUTION OF FIATS AS ROUTINE COMMERCIAL TRANS-ACTION UNRELATED TO DROUGHT RELIEF. FRENCH EMBASSY HAD LEARNED UNOFFICIALLY OF PRESENT'S INTENTION TO REJECT ITS REQUEST FOR COMPLETE FUEL TAX EXONERATION AND THEREBY REJECT OFFER OF 12 TRUCKS.) WHEN WE FLATLY STATED THAT WE WOULD MAKE NO RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON FOR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE UNTIL WE HAD RECEIVED WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS FOR BOTH SITUATIONS, DJONOUA TELEPHONED MINISTER TRANSPORT AND IN 15 MINUTES OR SO OF WRANGLING REPORTED THAT 12 OF THE FIATS WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO MOVE GRAIN FROM MAIDUGURI. (WE HAVE NOT YET VERIFIED THIS ACTION.) WE THEN SAID WE WOULD AWAIT NEWS OF THE DECISION ON THE FRENCH TRUCKS BEFORE GOING FURTHER.

4. RECENT TRIP TO DJONOUA TO DOUALA, YAOUNDE AND GAROUA MAY HAVE BEEN FOR PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING CAMEROONIAN ROUTE. WE HAVE REPORT THAT HIGH RANKING CHADIANS WITH INTERESTS IN CAMEROONINA FIRM NTONE ARE TRYING TO PROMOTE USE OF THIS ROUTE. THIS MAY BE BACKGROUND FOR GOC STATEMENT (REF D) THAT DONORS ARE TO DIVIDE SHIPMENTS BETWEEN NIGERIAN AND CAMEROONIAN ROUTES. ALTHOUGH WE WELCOME POSSIBILITY OF OPENING CAMEROONIAN ROUTE, WE WILL OF COURSE INSIST ON RIGHT TO CHOOSE LEAST EXPENSIVE, MOST EFFICIENT ROUTE FOR U.S. PRODUCTS AND WILL REJECT ANY ATTEMPT TO FUNNEL ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT PROFITS INTO CHADIAN POCKETS.

5. FOR LAGOS. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF OUR FAILURE TO GET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCOPAO TO ARRANGE PRIORITY LOADING US SORGHUM MAIDUGURI, CAN YOU HELP BY NEGOTIATIONS LAGOS? IF NOT, CAN YOU SEND REP. TO MAIDUGURI WITH AUTHORITY AND POTENTIAL FUNDS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS? NEHER

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